January/February, 1985

# Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## PLANTINGS AT ARBORETUM SHOW GRACE AT MATURITY

When many of the features at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum were first put in, they had a certain gawky charm often apparent only to those with imagination. But over the years the trees have grown and the ground-covers filled in enough to reveal the landscapes that the designers had in mind.

The aloes have become so tall that their rugged outlines rear up against the sky as they would in their native South Africa. In the Australian Section the eucalyptus display their mature forms, and the twisted pines around the waterfall make the 15-year-old landmark look as if it had always been there. Even Meadowbrook is losing its raw, new look as the birches and flowering trees grow tall enough to cast shadows across the boulder-strewn brook.

Growth has been almost imperceptible in some of the original trees like the century-old ginkgos and the native oaks, while other specimens grew so unruly that they were removed. As in every garden, constant evolution continues within the stable framework of the plant collections.

Sometimes those of us closest to the Arboretum notice only the stability, not the changes. So we need to pause occasionally and look closely at the growing beauty of the garden.

William Aplin

*Branches of the maturing pines that sweep across Meyberg Waterfall give the 15-year-old landmark a timeless appearance.*

*Cycads dominate this scene in the Jungle and Prehistoric Garden.*

*Cascading water sparkles behind the hybrid* X Amarcrinum *lily growing beside a pool in the Aquatic Garden.*

**Above:** *A row of Baldwin-era palms towers over newer acquisitions south of the Historical Section.*

**Left:** *A jungle bridge leads to the new azalea garden.*

**Below:** *Trees on Tallac Knoll frame this view of Meadowbrook.*

*A resident peacock strolls through the* Erythrina *collection on Tallac Knoll. Photos by LuAnn Munns.*

## SEMINAR PLANNED WITH HOME GARDENER IN MIND

THE 100 HOME GARDENERS who act fast enough to get into the Saturday seminars at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum can take advantage of the training, knowledge and experience of 18 horticultural authorities. The three all-day sessions begin Feb. 23 and continue at roughly three-week intervals through April 6.

The program has been planned especially for proficient amateurs, so the speakers will concentrate on techniques and approaches that they can utilize, according to Wendy Sekovich, Arboretum education specialist, who planned the seminar. Although gardeners may register for individual sessions, those who attend all three will receive a certificate of completion.

"I developed the idea for the seminar because there has been a real resurgence of interest in residential landscaping, new gardening trends and a more sophisticated use of plants.

"At first I thought we could cover everything in one day," she added, "but a lot needs to be said, so it turned into a three-day seminar."

Each session is built around a particular topic and further divided into morning and afternoon meetings. Beginning at 9 a.m. three experts will spend 45 uninterrupted minutes lecturing on his or her specialty. Then they will form a panel to answer questions from the home gardeners.

"Since there will be plenty of time during the question and answer period to deal with individual questions, people are encouraged to bring up any specific problems they may be facing in their own gardens," said Mrs. Sekovich.

Following the noon break, the same format will be followed in the afternoon with a new panel of experts until the meeting ends at 4:30 p.m.

The introductory session on Feb. 23 starts with the basics under the general title, "Understanding Your Garden." Philip Chandler, landscape designer, will discuss climatic effects on plant growth, and Wayne Morgan, a certified soil specialist, will promote understanding of soils, nutrients and fertilizers. Plant propagation will be taught by Terry Fujimoto from Cal Poly Pomona, followed by a look at residential irrigation systems by Tom Lockwood, a consultant with Val-Con Irrigation Systems.

Steve Smith

*Wendy Sekovich*

Gardeners will learn how to handle their two major problems — weeds and pests — during talks by Tom Yutani, author of "Garden Weeds of Southern California," and Michael Hall who will discuss identification and control of common insects and diseases.

On Mar. 16, gardeners will learn how to get the effect they want in their own outdoor living area during the "Planning and Planting the Residential Garden" session.

Mary Asher, landscape designer and UCLA instructor, begins with her ideas on planning the residential garden followed by fellow landscape designer Chris Rosmini's discussion of color theory in the landscape. Former Arboretum biologist Leonid Enari will describe appropriate trees and shrubs for the home landscape, and Ken Kurtz, a Cal Poly Pomona instructor, will talk about lawns and groundcovers to put under them. Robert Smaus, associate editor of the LA Times *Home* magazine will unveil new ideas in either container or shade gardening. Horticulturist John Catlin will show how to keep the landscape to scale by pruning, pinching and tying.

The final session April 6 deals with specialized gardens. Richard Dunmire, senior editor of *Sunset* magazine will fly down for his lecture on unusual foliage plants, special plants for special places. Gardeners whose gardens include architectural features can learn about pool and spa landscaping from UCLA instructor Robert Fletcher and about low cost greenhouses for the home garden from John Provine, Arboretum superintendent. Cliff Comstock of Monrovia Nursery will discuss new plants that have been introduced for Southern California gardens. Horticultural solutions to problem situations will be proposed by Shirley Kerins, horticulturist with the Huntington Botanical Gardens, when she talks about flowering vines for screens, background and barriers. Peggy McLaughlin of Cal Poly Pomona suggests the most practical solution of all when she describes drought tolerant landscapes.

Registration for the entire seminar is $80 for CAF members and $100 for the general public. Individual sessions cost $28 each for members and $35 for others. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. the day of the class. But because the seminar is limited to 100 people, CAF members may want to assure themselves of a place by preregistering with the brochure they receive in the mail.



(LASCA continues after page 32)

"Fall is for Flowers"

# GARDEN SHOW '84

Two words – beauty and imagination – come to mind when describing "Fall is for Flowers," GARDEN SHOW '84. Spread out over about three acres, the show was lauded as one of the best ever, making significant strides over the three previous shows. Even the weather was perfect – cool and clear – during the show that ran from Oct. 19 through the 28th.

Exhibitors spared no expense in constructing some of the most creative model gardens yet to appear at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum during the annual extravaganza. The gardens were so good, in fact, that judges awarded two prizes for best of show. Fair Oaks Nursery and Magic Growers shared that top designation.

Other winners in the competitive judging were: best cut flowers, The Flower Market; best use of color indoors, San Gabriel Valley Orchid Hobbyists; best use of color outdoors, Monrovia Nursery; and best amateur color display, Pasadena Garden Club.

The judges also conferred ribbons in the following individual categories:

Low maintenance garden – first place, The Plant Shop; special mention, Southern California Horticultural Society.

Plant collector's garden, amateur– first place, Temple City Camellia Society; special mention, California Rare Fruit Growers; professional – first place (triple tie), Magic Growers, Fair Oaks Nursery and Zen Landscape; special mention, Tatum's Nursery.

Family garden, amateur – first place, Diggers Garden Club; professional – first place, Rosebrock Nursery; special mention, Landscape Assistance.

Tropical garden, amateur – first place, San Gabriel Orchid Hobbyists; professional – first place, Rain Forest; special mentions, Stewart's Orchids, The Plant Shop and the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Feature cut flowers, amateur – first place, Cal Poly Pomona; professional (Category 1) – first place, The Flower Market; special mention, Hadeco; professional (Category 2)– first place, Weeks Roses.

Dried materials – first place, Susan Tufenkian; special mention, Joyce Friend.

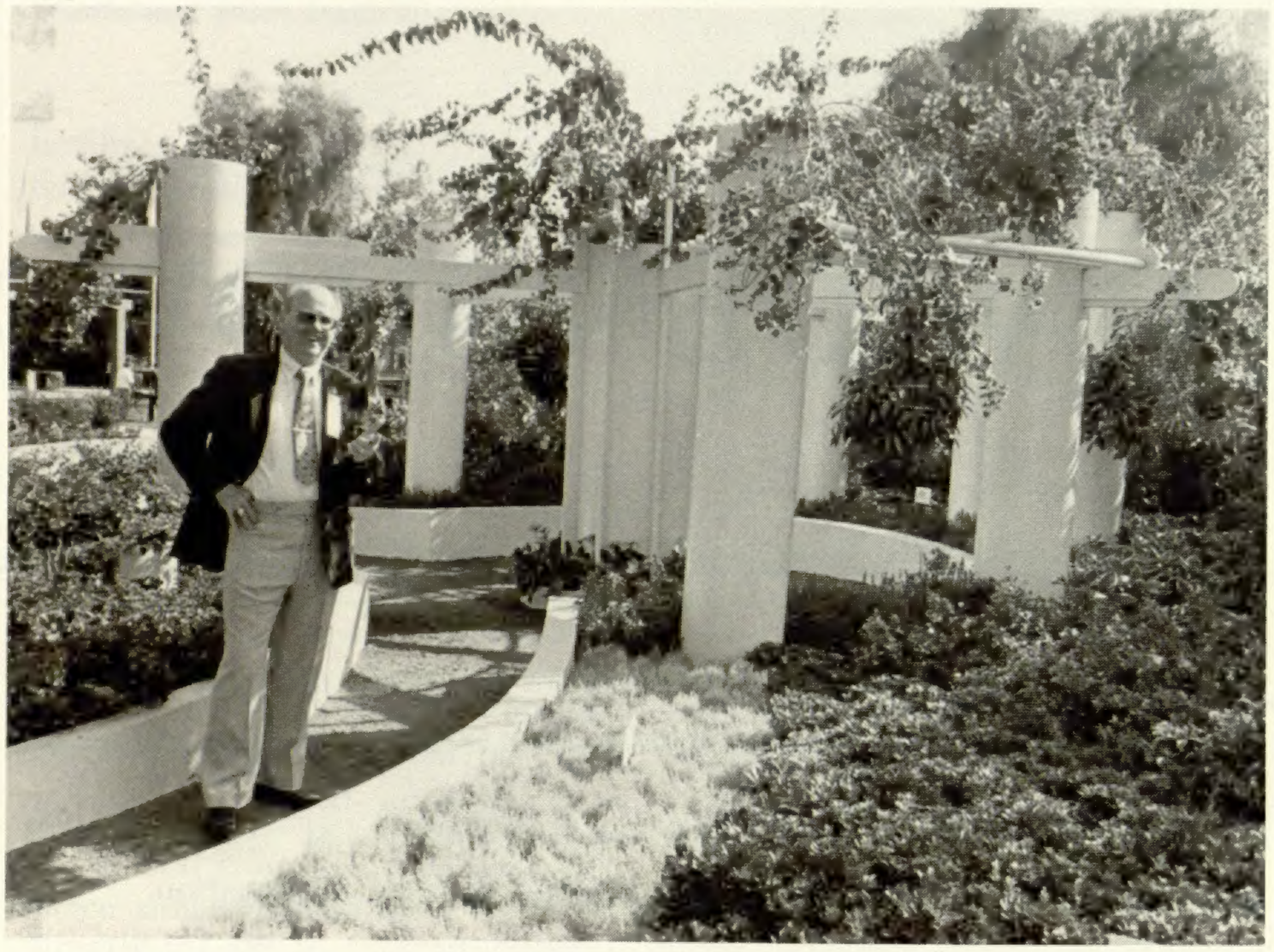
Container displays – special mention, Melanie's Garden.

Color displays – first place, Monrovia Nursery; special mention, Rogers Nursery.

*Visitors enter GARDEN SHOW '84 through a banner-draped corridor. Photos by William Aplin.*

*Landscape Assistance's gazebo.*

*Cliff Comstock, steering committee chairman, admires the bougainvillea-topped columns in the Monrovia Nursery garden.*



# FALL IS FOR

**Left:** *Vegetables thrive in Rosebrock's raised gardens.*

*South African flowers and artifacts.*

# FLOWERS

**Above:** *The prize-winning garden by Magic Growers.*

*A canvas fly shades the angular pool that sends sheets of water down into a sunken meditation garden by Zen Landscape.*

*Using blooms from the LA Flower Market, John Stillion decorated four seasonal rooms and adjoining patios.*

*A variety of plants and textures contrast in the model garden designed by Fair Oaks..*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 1985

### LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**JANUARY 7 — 7 to 10 p.m.**
Plant Identification
First meeting
Dr. Leonid Enari

**JANUARY 8 — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**
Creative Flower Arranging
First meeting
Mazie Jeanne George

**JANUARY 11 — 9 a.m. to noon**
Garden Forum
First meeting
Jan Zalba

**JANUARY 11 — 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**
Ikebana, Japanese Flower Arranging
First meeting
Reiko Kawamura

**JANUARY 20 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Gladiolus Bulb Sale
So. Calif. Gladiolus Society

**JANUARY 26, 27 — 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Bonsai Show
Baiko-en Kenkyukai Bonsai Society

**FEBRUARY 9, 10 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Camellia Show
Temple City Camellia Society

**MARCH 1, 2, 3 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Orchid Show
Southland Orchid Society

**MARCH 9 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Environmental Education Fair
Hosted by L.A. State & County Arboretum

**MARCH 31 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Victorian Fair
Herb Society
*All events sponsored by California Arboretum Foundation*

### DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

**JANUARY 4 thru 31 — 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Art Show
Hospitality House

**JANUARY 12 — 1 to 4 p.m.**
Rose Pruning Demonstration
George Lewis and Staff

**FEBRUARY 23, 24 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Camellia Show
So. Calif. Camellia Council

**MARCH 2, 3 — Sat. 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.**
**Sun. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Girl Scout Flower Show
Sierra Madre Girl Scout Council

**MARCH 16, 17 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Flower Show
Pasadena Garden Society

**MARCH 23, 24 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Daffodil Show
So. Calif. Daffodil Society
*All events sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild.*

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**JANUARY 6 — 1:30 to 3 p.m.**
Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration
Ed Hartnagel and Staff

**JANUARY 13 — 2 to 4 p.m.**
Rose Pruning, Demonstration, Potting and Care
South Coast Rose Society

**JANUARY 26, 27 — Sat. 1:30 to 5 p.m.**
**Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Camellia Show
South Coast Camellia Society

**FEBRUARY 2, 3 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
Bonsai and Japanese Doll Show
Hirofumi Kai Club
*All events sponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation*